# TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS AGRI-TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING

#### **AGENDA**

Wednesday, January 17, 2024 - 6:00 P.M.



#### **Committee Members:**

Joseph Chammas, Member Simon Fernandez, Member Liza Holman, Member Martin Holman, Member Darrin Swank, Member

#### Administration:

Francine L. Ramaglia, Town Manager
Ruth Holmes, Town Attorney
Danielle Buzzetta, Administrative Assistant, Town Clerk's Office

Civility: Being "civil" is not a restraint on the First Amendment right to speak out, but it is more than just being polite. Civility is stating your opinions and beliefs, without degrading someone else in the process. Civility requires a person to respect other people's opinions and beliefs even if he or she strongly disagrees. It is finding a common ground for dialogue with others. It is being patient, graceful, and having a strong character. That's why we say "Character Counts" in Town of Loxahatchee Groves. Civility is practiced at all Town meetings.

Special Needs: In accordance with the provisions of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), persons in need of a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding shall within three business days prior to any proceeding, contact the Town Clerk's Office, 155 F Road, Loxahatchee Groves, Florida, (561) 793-2418.

Quasi-Judicial Hearings: Some of the matters on the Agenda may be "quasi-judicial" in nature. Town Council Members are required to disclose all ex-parte communications regarding these items and are subject to voir dire (a preliminary examination of a witness or a juror by a judge or council) by any affected party regarding those communications. All witnesses testifying will be "sworn" prior to their testimony. However, the public is permitted to comment, without being sworn. Unsworn comment will be given its appropriate weight by the Town Council.

**Appeal of Decision:** If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Town Council with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, he or she will need a record of the proceeding, and for that purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes any testimony and evidence upon which the appeal will be based.

Consent Calendar: Those matters included under the Consent Calendar are typically self-explanatory, non-controversial, and are not expected to require review or discussion. All items will be enacted by a single motion. If discussion on an item is desired, any Town Council Member, without a motion, may "pull" or remove the item to be considered separately. If any item is quasi-judicial, it may be removed from the Consent Calendar to be heard separately, by a Town Council Member, or by any member of the public desiring it to be heard, without a motion.

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

# **ROLL CALL**

## COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

The public is encouraged to offer comments on any non-agenda item. Generally, remarks by an individual will be limited to one time, up to three minutes or less.

# **REGULAR AGENDA**

- 1. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair
- 2. Review of the Government in Sunshine Manual Ruth Holmes, Town Attorney
- 3. Committee Rules of Conduct
- 4. Purpose of the Agri-Tourism Committee Francine L. Ramaglia, Town Manager
- 5. Ordinance No. 2023-15 (failed at the Town Council Meeting on December 5, 2023)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA, AMENDING SECTION 20-015 "PERMITTED USES" OF ARTICLE 20 "RESIDENTIAL ZONING DISTRICTS" WITHIN PART II "ZONING DISTRICTS" AND ARTICLE 65 "AGRICULTURAL USES" WITHIN PART III "SUPPLEMENTAL REGULATIONS" ALL WITHIN THE UNIFIED LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

- 6. Committee Discussion
- 7. Schedule of Committee Meetings and Times
- 8. Public Comments

#### ADJOURNMENT

#### Comment Cards:

Anyone from the public wishing to address the Committee, it is requested that you complete a Comment Card before speaking. Please fill out completely with your full name and address so that your comments can be entered correctly in the minutes and give to the Town Clerk. During the agenda item portion of the meeting, you may only address the item on the agenda being discussed at the time of your comment. During public comments, you may address any item you desire. Please remember that there is a three (3) minute time limit on all public comment. Any person who decides to appeal any decision of the Council with respect to any matter considered at this meeting will need a record of the proceedings and for such purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made which included testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Persons with disabilities requiring accommodations in order to participate should contact the Town Clerk's Office (561-793-2418), at least 48 hours in advance to request such accommodation.

These are the F.A.Q. that came directly from the Office of Attorney General Moody. The 2023 Government in the Sunshine Manual can be found at the following link: <a href="https://www.myfloridalegal.com/sites/default/files/2023-05/2023GovernmentInTheSunshineManual.pdf">https://www.myfloridalegal.com/sites/default/files/2023-05/2023GovernmentInTheSunshineManual.pdf</a>

#### What is the Sunshine Law?

Florida's Government-in-the-Sunshine law provides a right of access to governmental proceedings at both the state and local levels. It applies to any gathering of two or more members of the same board to discuss some matter which will foresee ably come before that board for action. There is also a constitutionally guaranteed right of access. Virtually all state and local collegial public bodies are covered by the open meetings requirements with the exception of the judiciary and the state Legislature which has its own constitutional provision relating to access.

# What are the requirements of the Sunshine law?

The Sunshine law requires that 1) meetings of boards or commissions must be open to the public; 2) reasonable notice of such meetings must be given, and 3) minutes of the meeting must be taken.

# What agencies are covered under the Sunshine Law?

The Government-in-the-Sunshine Law applies to "any board or commission of any state agency or authority or of any agency or authority of any county, municipal corporation or political subdivision." Thus, it applies to public collegial bodies within the state at both the local as well as state level. It applies equally to elected or appointed boards or commissions.

# Are federal agencies covered by the Sunshine Law?

Federal agencies operating in the state do not come under Florida's Sunshine law.

## Does the Sunshine Law apply to the Legislature?

Florida's Constitution provides that meetings of the Legislature be open and noticed except those specifically exempted by the Legislature or specifically closed by the Constitution. Each house is responsible through its rules of procedures for interpreting, implementing and enforcing these provisions. Information on the rules governing openness in the Legislature can be obtained from the respective houses.

#### Does the Sunshine Law apply to members-elect?

Members-elect of public boards or commissions are covered by the Sunshine law immediately upon their election to public off ice.

# What qualifies as a meeting?

The Sunshine law applies to all discussions or deliberations as well as the formal action taken by a board or commission. The law, in essence, is applicable to any gathering, whether formal or casual, of two or more members of the same board or commission to discuss some matter on which foreseeable action will be taken by the public board or commission. There is no requirement that a quorum be present for a meeting to be covered under the law.

#### Can a public agency hold closed meetings?

There are a limited number of exemptions which would allow a public agency to close a

meeting. These include, but are not limited to, certain discussions with the board's attorney over pending litigation and portions of collective bargaining sessions. In addition, specific portions of meetings of some agencies (usually state agencies) may be closed when those agencies are making probable cause determinations or considering confidential records.

- Does the law require that a public meeting be audio taped?
  - There is no requirement under the Sunshine law that tape recordings be made by a public board or commission, but if they are made, they become public records.
- Can a city restrict a citizen's right to speak at a meeting?

  Bublic agoncies are allowed to adopt reasonable rules and re

Public agencies are allowed to adopt reasonable rules and regulations which ensure the orderly conduct of a public meeting and which require orderly behavior on the part of the public attending. This includes limiting the amount of time an individual can speak and, when a large number of people attend and wish to speak, requesting that a representative of each side of the issue speak rather than every one present.

- As a private citizen, can I videotape a public meeting?
  - A public board may not prohibit a citizen from videotaping a public meeting through the use of nondisruptive video recording devices.
- Can a board vote by secret ballot?
  - The Sunshine law requires that meetings of public boards or commissions be "open to the public at all times." Thus, use of preassigned numbers, codes or secret ballots would violate the law.
- Can two members of a public board attend social functions together?
   Members of a public board are not prohibited under the Sunshine law from meeting together socially, provided that matters which may come before the board are not discussed at such gatherings.
- What is a public record?
  - The Florida Supreme Court has determined that public records are all materials made or received by an agency in connection with official business which are used to perpetuate, communicate or formalize knowledge. They are not limited to traditional written documents. Tapes, photographs, films and sound recordings are also considered public records subject to inspection unless a statutory exemption exists.
- Can I request public documents over the telephone and do I have to tell why I want them?
  - Nothing in the public records law requires that a request for public records be in writing or in person, although individuals may wish to make their request in writing to ensure they have an accurate record of what they requested. Unless otherwise exempted, a custodian of public records must honor a request for records, whether it is made in person, over the telephone, or in writing, provided the required fees are paid. In addition, nothing in the law requires the requestor to disclose the reason for the request.
- How much can an agency charge for public documents?
  - The law provides that the custodian shall furnish a copy of public records upon payment of the fee prescribed by law. If no fee is prescribed, an agency is normally allowed to charge up to 15 cents per one-sided copy for copies that are 14" x 8 1/2" or less. A

charge of up to \$1 per copy may be assessed for a certified copy of a public record. If the nature and volume of the records to be copied requires extensive use of information technology resources or extensive clerical or supervisory assistance, or both, the agency may charge a reasonable service charge based on the actual cost incurred.

- Does an agency have to explain why it denies access to public records?
   A custodian of a public record who contends that the record or part of a record is exempt from inspection must state the basis for that exemption, including the statutory citation. Additionally, when asked, the custodian must state in writing the reasons for concluding the record is exempt.
- When does a document sent to a public agency become a public document?
   As soon as a document is received by a public agency, it becomes a public record, unless there is a legislatively created exemption which makes it confidential and not subject to disclosure.
- Are public employee personnel records considered public records?
   The rule on personnel records is the same as for other public documents ... unless the Legislature has specifically exempted an agency's personnel records or authorized the agency to adopt rules limiting public access to the records, personnel records are open to public inspection. There are, however, numerous statutory exemptions that apply to personnel records.
- Can an agency refuse to allow public records to be inspected or copied if requested to do so by the maker or sender of the documents?

  No. To allow the maker or sender of documents to dictate the circumstances under which documents are deemed confidential would permit private parties instead of the Legislature to determine which public records are public and which are not.
- Are arrest records public documents?
   Arrest reports prepared by a law enforcement agency after the arrest of a subject are generally considered to be open for public inspection. At the same time, however, certain information such as the identity of a sexual battery victim is exempt.
- Is an agency required to give out information from public records or produce public records in a particular form as requested by an individual?
   The Sunshine Law provides for a right of access to inspect and copy existing public records. It does not mandate that the custodian give out information from the records nor does it mandate that an agency create new records to accommodate a request for information.
- What agency can prosecute violators?
   The local state attorney has the statutory authority to prosecute alleged criminal violations of the open meetings and public records law. Certain civil remedies are also available.
- What is the difference between the Sunshine Amendment and the Sunshine Law?
   The Sunshine Amendment was added to Florida's Constitution in 1976 and provides for full and public disclosure of the financial interests of all public officers, candidates and employees. The Sunshine Law provides for open meetings for governmental boards
- How can I find out more about the open meetings and public records laws?
   Probably the most comprehensive guide to understanding the requirements and

exemptions to Florida's open government laws is the Government-in-the-Sunshine manual compiled by the Attorney General's Office. The manual is updated each year and is available for purchase through the First Amendment Foundation in Tallahassee. For information on obtaining a copy, contact the **First Amendment Foundation at (850) 224-4555**.

#### TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES

## **RESOLUTION NO. 2015-18**

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA, RELATING TO PROCEDURES AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR TOWN BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Town Council finds it in the best interest of the Town to confirm a uniform policy, based upon the policy used by the Town Council, for conduct of business and public participation at Town Board and Committee meetings.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Town Council of the Town of Loxahatchee Groves as follows:

Section 1. Each "WHEREAS" clause set forth above is true and correct and herein incorporated by this reference.

Section 2. All meetings of Town boards and committees shall be conducted in accordance with the following:

- A. All meetings or workshops shall be governed by the Rules of Procedure set forth herein, where applicable.
- B. Any board or committee member desiring to speak must be recognized by the Chair. If the Chair desires to participate in a discussion, he or she shall do so only when all members of the board or committee have spoken at least once (if so desired). No member of the board or committee shall interrupt another member of the board or committee who has been recognized by the Chair and no member shall dominate the floor in excess of five (5) minutes without offering to yield to other members of the board or committee.
- C. The Chair shall not use that position to dominate debate or discussion, nor unreasonably cut short or prolong any debate, discussion or taking of any vote.
- D. Any matters not specifically addressed by this policy will be governed by Robert's Rules of Order to the extent possible.
- E. Except when abstaining from voting in accordance with Florida Statutes, each member who is present at a meeting must vote on each decision, ruling or other official act. A roll call vote may be had on any matter for which the Chair deems is appropriate; otherwise, all votes may be done by voice vote. For roll call votes, the order of each member vote will rotate after each roll call vote. The Chair shall

announce the results after each vote.

F. Public comments shall be placed on the agenda at the beginning of the meeting and at the end of meeting. Public comments will also be entertained for each agenda item. Public Comment will be allowed after board or committee deliberation and prior to the vote on any item. Public comment is an opportunity for members of the public to make comment, and shall not be a question/answer period conducted with the board or committee. Persons desiring to speak on an item shall submit a comment card to the board or committee clerk. All public comments shall be limited to a three (3) minute time period.

Section 3. All resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

<u>Section 4.</u> If any clause, section, other part or application of this Resolution is held by any court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional or invalid, in part or application, it shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions or applications of this Resolution.

Section 5. This Resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

RESOLVED AND ADOPTED by the Town Council of the TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, Florida this 19th day of 100 u , 2015.

ATTEST:

Janet K. Whipple, Town Clerk

APPROYEDAS TO LEGAL FORM:

Town Attorney

TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES,

**FLORIDA** 

Mayor David Browning

IOM (SOY)

Council Member/John Goltzené

Council Member Ryan Liang

Council Member Jim Rockett

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2023-86**

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA, PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF THE "LOXAHATCHEE GROVES AGRITOURISM COMMITTEE" TO IDENTIFY POTENTIAL SUBSTANTIAL OFFSITE IMPACTS FROM AGRITOURISM ACTIVITIES AND DEVELOP MITIGATION METHODS FOR SUBSTANTIAL OFFSITE IMPACTS; PROVIDING FOR DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE; PROVIDING FOR COMPLIANCE WITH FLORIDA'S SUNSHINE LAW AND PUBLIC RECORDS LAW; PROVIDING FOR PROCEDURAL MATTERS OF COMMITTEE; APPOINTING THE **MEMBERS** OF COMMITTEE; PROVIDING FOR SUNSETTING OF THE COMMITTEE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICT, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, in 2016, the Legislature amended Section 570.85, Florida Statutes, regarding agritourism to add its intent to promote agritourism as a way to support bona fide agricultural production and specifically state that the limitations on local governments "does not limit the powers and duties of a local government to address substantial offsite impacts of agritourism activities"; and

WHEREAS, since 2016, the Town of Loxahatchee Groves (Town) has become the home to many agritourism activities; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council desires to encourage agritourism activities within the Town and to mitigate the substantial offsite impacts of agritourism activities to balance the interests of the health, safety, and welfare of the public and maintain the peace and tranquility of surrounding residential communities; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Town Council to create a Committee to advise the Town Council on potential substantial offsite impacts from agritourism activities, as set forth in more detail herein; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council determines that the creation of the Committee serves a valid public purpose.

Resolution No. 2023-86

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Town Council of the Town of Loxahatchee Groves, Florida, as follows:

<u>Section 1</u>. That the foregoing "WHEREAS" clauses are confirmed and ratified as being true and correct and are hereby made a specific part of this Resolution.

<u>Section 2.</u> The Town Council hereby establishes the Town's "Loxahatchee Groves Agritourism Committee" as follows:

- I. Creation of the "Loxahatchee Groves Agritourism Committee." There is created the Loxahatchee Groves Agritourism Committee (Committee) to act as an advisory board to the Town Council, as follows:
  - (A) Membership. The Committee shall be comprised of five (5) voting members.
    - 1. Qualifications. Each member shall be a resident or landowner within the Town and shall be active in the agritourism industry within the Town.
    - 2. Appointment. Each member of the Town Council shall appoint a qualified individual and notify the Town Clerk of the appointment. Once all appointments are submitted, the Town Clerk will place a notice of appointment of Committee members on the next available Town Council meeting agenda. The members shall serve at the pleasure of appointing members of the Town Council and Town Council.
  - (B) Duty. The Committee's duties are to recommend to Town Council potential substantial offsite impacts of agritourism activities and to develop recommendations to mitigate substantial offsite impacts to balance the needs of the agritourism operation with the health, safety, and welfare of the public and the peace and tranquility of the surrounding residential communities. Such recommendations shall include identification of potential substantial offsite impacts and how to identify any additional potential substantial offsite impacts; how such impacts should be measured to establish whether the impact is substantial; and how such impacts should be mitigated to become less than substantial.
- II. Advisory Only. The actions, decisions, and recommendations of the Committee shall be advisory only. All final decisions are solely at the discretion of the Town Council.
- III. Meetings, Dates, Procedures, Records, Quorum, and Compensation.
  - (A) The Committee shall hold an organizational meeting within thirty (30) days of the appointment of a number of Committee members to have a quorum, at which the members of the Committee shall elect by a majority vote of its membership a chair and vice-chair.

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- (B) The Committee shall meet on an as-needed basis, as determined by the Chair or the Town Manager.
- (C) All meetings, records and files of the Committee shall be open and available to the public, consistent with Chapter 119, Florida Statutes (the Public Records Law) and Chapter 286, Florida Statutes (the Sunshine Law). In addition, members of the Committee shall ensure that their actions are in compliance with the Public Records Law and the Sunshine Law.
- (D) Notice for any meeting of the Committee shall be posted in accordance with the Sunshine Law and on the Town's website and at the Town Office no later than 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.
- (E) Three (3) voting members shall constitute a quorum of the Committee, and official action shall be taken by the board by a majority vote of the members present at the meeting. If a quorum is not present, the Committee members may continue to meet and discuss issues; however, no official action may be taken.
- (F) The Town Manager or his\her designee shall act as secretary to the Committee and be responsible for attending all meetings and providing the items necessary for conducting meetings, as requested by the Chair, and for recording and preparation of meeting minutes. The Town Attorney or his\her designee shall act as attorney for the Committee, on an as-needed basis.
- (G) Town staff will reasonably provide adequate support to the Committee to discharge their responsibilities.
- (H) Members of the Committee shall serve without compensation for the performance of their duties.

<u>Section 3.</u> The following persons are appointed to be members of the Committee:

Darrin Swank Mayor Laura Danowski Simon Fernendez Vice Mayor Robert Shorr

Liza Holman Councilmember Margaret Herzog Joseph Chammas Councilmember Phillis Maniglia Martin Holman Councilmember Marianne Miles

Section 4. Sunset of the Committee. Unless extended by the adoption of a Resolution by the Town Council, the Committee shall sunset on March 31, 2024.

<u>Section 5.</u> Severability. If any clause, section, or other part or application of this Resolution shall be held by any court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional or invalid,

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such unconstitutional or invalid part or application shall be considered as eliminated, and so not affecting the validity of the remaining portions or applications remaining in full force and effect.

<u>Section 6.</u> Conflicts. All Resolutions or parts of Resolutions in conflict herewith are to the extent of such conflicts hereby repealed.

Section 7. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effective immediately upon its adoption.

Councilmember <u>Maniglia</u> offered the foregoing resolution. Councilmember <u>Shorr</u> seconded the motion, and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

	Aye	Nay	<u>Absent</u>
LAURA DANOWSKI, MAYOR			
ROBERT SHORR, VICE MAYOR	6		
MARGARET HERZOG, COUNCILMEMBER	02		
PHILLIS MANIGLIA, COUNCILMEMBER			
MARIANNE MILES, COUNCILMEMBER			

ADOPTED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA, THIS DAY OF DECEMBER 2023.

	TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA
ATTEST:	Jaura M. Danou Há
1003	Mayor Laura Danowski
Lakisha Q. Burch, Town Clerk	1/Ash
	Vice Mayor Robert Shorr
A Complete	Margaret Herzog
APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:	Councilmember Margaret Herzog
Elaheth Vofmhan	
Office of the Town Attorney	Councilmember Phillis Maniglia
	Mirrana Mate
	Councilmember Marianne Miles



# TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

### **DECEMBER 5, 2023**

Meeting audio available in Town Clerk's Office- there were some technical difficulties during the recording of meeting.

Meetings are also available on YouTube.

#### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Danowski called the meeting 6:32 p.m.

# PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Danowski led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Danowski led a prayer.

#### ROLL CALL

Mayor Danowski, Vice Mayor Shorr, Councilmembers Herzog, Maniglia, and Miles. Town Manager Ramaglia, Town Attorney Lenihan, Public Works Director Peters, Incoming Public Works Director Richard Gallant, and Town Clerk Lakisha Burch.

# ADDITIONS, DELETIONS AND MODIFICATIONS

Vice Mayor Shorr asked if items 11 and 13 be moved to be heard after the presentation. Councilmember Maniglia asked a question regarding second reading ordinance being under Discussion. Town Staff responded that it was a heading mistake and Town Manager Ramaglia stated the correction. There was discussion about the order of the agenda.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Shorr seconded by Councilmember Maniglia to approve the modification of the agenda as follows items 1 and 2 followed by items 11 and 13, then continue agenda as is it was voted as follows: Ayes: Mayor Danowski, Vice Mayor Shorr, Councilmembers Herzog, Maniglia, and Miles. Motion passed unanimously.

## COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

#### PRESENTATION

1. Presentation from the Gehring Group updating of the Town's insurance for employees.

Melissa Morley from the Gehring Group presented the item to the Town Council regarding the renewal of the employee's health and insurance benefits.

It was asked by Mayor Danowski to Town Attorney could Resolution No. 2023-83 be pulled from the Consent Agenda and be approved. Town Attorney Lenihan responded, yes.

Resolution No. 2023-83 was pulled from the Consent Agenda and voted on.

2. Presentation of the FY22 Audit from Caballero, Fierman, Llerena, & Garcia, LLP.

Fierman presented the item to the Town Council by going through the audit for the FY 22 year. He also thanked the Town Council for the opportunity to be their auditor.

Councilmember Herzog asked about the controls. Chris Wallace from Munilytics responded to Councilmember Herzog's question. She also asked about the Policy and Procedures Manual. Town Manager Ramaglia responded. She asked about bank reconciliations, journal entry, and closing. Mr. Wallace responded.

Vice Mayor Shorr asked when the next audit will be coming out. Mr. Wallace responded March.

Councilmember Maniglia asked if this is not a final draft. Mr. Fierman responded. Mayor Danowski thanked Mr. Fierman. She then asked what the importance of the audit is. Mr. Fierman responded to her question.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

3. Consideration of approval of Meeting Minutes.

a.	August 1, 2023	Community Open Discussion Meeting Minutes
b.	August 1, 2023	Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes
c.	August 23, 2023	FY 24 Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes
d.	November 7, 2023	Community Open Discussion Meeting Minutes
e.	November 7, 2023	Town Council Meeting Minutes

- 4. Consideration of *Resolution No. 2023-82* amending Resolution No. 2022-48 regarding employment terms including accrual and carryover of paid time off.
- Consideration of Resolution No. 2023-83 authorizing Town employee's health and insurance benefits for 2024. PULLED FROM CONSENT TO BE VOTED ON AFTER PRESENTATION ITEM # 1

Motion was made by Councilmember Maniglia seconded by Councilmember Miles to remove from the Consent Agenda; it was voted as follows: Ayes: Mayor Danowski, Vice Mayor Shorr, Councilmembers Herzog, Maniglia, and Miles. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilmember Maniglia seconded by Councilmember Miles to approve Resolution No. 2023-83 authorizing Town employee's health and insurance benefits for 2024; it was voted as follows: Ayes: Mayor Danowski, Vice Mayor Shorr, Councilmembers Herzog, Maniglia, and Miles. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Consideration of *Resolution No. 2023-85* approving ingress/egress easement to facilitate construction of culvert bridge at A Road and 161<sup>st</sup>.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Shorr seconded by Councilmember Maniglia to approve the Consent Agenda items 2a, b, c, d, and e, 4, and 6; it voted as follows: Ayes: Mayor Danowski, Vice Mayor Shorr, Councilmembers Herzog, Maniglia, and Miles. Motion passed unanimously.

#### REGULAR AGENDA

7. Consideration of *Resolution No. 2023-80* approving Removal of Specimen Trees at 3556 B Road.

Councilmember Miles recused herself due to living on B Road.

Mr. James Fleischmann presented the item to the Town Council by giving them an update on the changes made since the last meeting. Vice Mayor Shorr thanked Ms. Brady for saving some of the mature trees.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Shorr seconded by Councilmember Herzog to approve *Resolution No. 2023-80* approving removal of Specimen Trees at 3556 B Road it was voted as follows: Ayes: Mayor Danowski, Vice Mayor Shorr, Councilmembers Herzog and Miles. Motion passed 4-0. Councilmember Miles abstained.

8. Consideration of *Resolution No. 2023-81* approving Removal of Specimen Trees at 14120 6<sup>th</sup> Court.

Mr. James Fleischmann presented the item to the Town Council by giving them an update on 14120 6<sup>th</sup> Court. There was discussion among the Town Council and Town Staff and Mr. Hayes.

There were public comments by Katie Edward Walphe and Mr. Hayes.

Motion was made by Mayor Danowski seconded by Councilmember Herzog to approve Resolution No. 2023-81 approving removal of Specimen Trees at 14120 6<sup>th</sup> Court it was voted as follows: Ayes: Mayor Danowski, Councilmembers Herzog, and Miles. Nay: Vice Mayor Shorr. Councilmember Maniglia abstained.

#### PUBLIC HEARING

9. Consideration of Ordinance No. 2023-08 on first reading revising the Building Code.

Town Attorney Lenihan read Ordinance No. 2023-08 on second reading.

Jacek Tomaski, the Building Official presented the item to the Town Council regarding the revising of the Building Code. There was discussion among the Town Council, Building Official and Town Staff.

There were public comments made by Paul Coleman and Virginia Standish.

Motion was made by Councilmember Maniglia seconded by Vice Mayor Shorr to approve on first reading Ordinance No. 2023-08 revising the Building Code; it was voted as follows: Ayes: Mayor Danowski, Vice Mayor Shorr, Councilmembers Herzog, Maniglia, and Miles. Motion passed unanimously.

10. Consideration of *Ordinance No. 2023-13* on second reading amending election for date and vacancies.

Town Attorney Lenihan presented the item to the Town Council. There was discussion among the Town Council and Town Staff.

Motion was made by Councilmember Maniglia seconded by Councilmember Herzog to approve on second reading Ordinance No. 2023-13 amending elections for date and vacancies; it was voted as follows: Ayes: Mayor Danowski, Vice Mayor Shorr, Councilmembers Herzog, Maniglia, and Miles. Motion passed unanimously.

11. Consideration of *Ordinance No. 2023-15* on second reading on Agricultural and Agritourism. **MOVED TO BE HEARD AFTER ITEM PRESENTATIONS.** 

Town Attorney Lenihan read the Ordinance into the record. She also gave a brief update on the changes to the Ordinance.

Mayor Danowski asked what the handout was given out. Town Manager Ramaglia responded.

There were public comments made by the following: Teri Mitze representative for Florida House Representative Ric Roth, Sara Baxter, District 6 Palm Beach County Commissioner, Mark Rhinehole, Darrin and Jodi Swank, Virginia Standish, Cassie Suchy, Manish Sood, Liza Corazo and Marty Holman, Cheri Reed, Joseph Chammas, and Todd McLendon.

Mayor Danowski asked for the Town Council to consider the following: create and AD Hoc Committee to be created, Town Councilmember appoint one member, cancel 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and bring back. The Town Council individuals gave their thoughts and opinions regarding Mayor Danowski's request. Commissioner Baxter addressed the Town Council with her suggestion of how the Town Council should proceed with approving Ordinance No. 2023-15. Mayor Danowski asked how to proceed. Town Attorney Lenihan responded.

There was consensus made by the Town Council to have an Ad Hoc Committee regarding Agritourism allowing each Town Councilmember to appoint a member.

Motion was made by Councilmember Maniglia to deny the second reading of Ordinance No. 2023-15 seconded by Councilmember Herzog; she then changed her motion to approve on second reading on Ordinance No. 2023-15 regarding Agricultural and Agritourism seconded by Councilmember Herzog it was voted as follows: Ayes: None. Nays: Mayor Danowski, Vice Mayor Shorr, Councilmembers Herzog, Maniglia, and Miles. Motion failed 0-5.

Motion was made by Mayor Danowski seconded by Councilmember Miles to remove Councilmember Maniglia from the bench for disruptive behavior; it was voted as follows: Ayes: Mayor Danowski, Vice Mayor Shorr, Councilmember Herzog, and Miles. Nay: Councilmember Maniglia. Motion passed 4-1.

## DISCUSSION

12. Discussion of Comprehensive Plan (EAR).

James Fleischmann, Town Planning Consultant, presented the item to the Town Council. There was discussion among the Town Council and Town Staff.

There were public comments made by the following: Paul Coleman, Katie Edwards-Walpole, Virginia Standish, and Cassie Suchy.

Councilmember Miles asked about why special properties in the Comp Plan. Town Attorney Lenihan responded to her question.

There was consensus by the Town Council to schedule a workshop to discuss the next version.

13. Discussion regarding Roadway and Drainage update. MOVED TO BE HEARD AFTER ITEM 11 WHICH WAS MOVED TO BE HEARD AFTER PRESENTATIONS.

Jeff Kurtz presented the item to the Town Council and asked the Town Council to give the Town Manager and Town Attorney the authorizing any change orders that will be needed. Town Attorney Lenihan also commented on this.

Vice Mayor Shorr stated that if a deduction doesn't need Town Council approval. Town Attorney Lenihan responded to Vice Mayor Shorr's question. Vice Mayor Shorr asked Town Manager do we have 40, 000 that could be approved tonight. Town Manager Ramaglia stated that it could be done but doesn't know where it would come from. There was discussion among the Town Council and Town Staff.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Shorr seconded by Councilmember Miles to allot and additional \$40,000.00 and necessary time extension for J. W. Cheatum to complete E Road, Folsom, 25<sup>th</sup> and G West as much as these easements will allow and give authorization to the Town Manager and Town Attorney to execute; it was voted as follows: Ayes: Mayor Danowski, Vice Mayor Shorr, Councilmembers Herzog, Maniglia, and Miles. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Maniglia asked why these roads are being stuck on. Mr. Kurtz responded.

Mr. Kurtz stated that Collecting Canal- contract will be done by WBI to do the work.

Town Manager Ramaglia introduced the new Public Works Director Richard Gallant to the Town Council. Thanked Larry for his service to the Town. Mr. Gallant introduced himself.

# **TOWN STAFF COMMENTS**

#### Town Manager

- Announced that she was happy to see Commission Baxter was still in audience.
- Spoke on the Town opposition on the annexation and thanked Commissioner Baxter for her help.

Town Attorney

No comment.

#### Public Works Director

- Mr. Peters addressed the Town Council
- Introduction of new Public Works Director- Richard Gallant

#### Town Clerk

- Town Clerk spoke about the upcoming Holiday Parade: Working on the float will be this Saturday, December 9th from 9:00 until
- The Holiday Parade will be held on December 10th. Information has been sent to the Town Council.
- Holiday Gratitude Basket will be given out on December 15th- we are accepting donations and taking names. Please send in names to receive the basket.
- Announce resignation.

#### TOWN COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

# Councilmember Margaret Herzog (Seat 5)

- Nice to see bank mowers out cleaning the breams.
- Happy Holidays

## Councilmember Phillis Maniglia (Seat 1)

- Not the weakest link.
- Happy Holiday
- Thanked Mr. Peters and Ms. Burch

# Councilmember Marianne Miles (Seat 3)

- Happy Holidays, thanks for kind words, thanks 2024 will be better.
- Spoke about overgrown grass.
- Told Mr. Peters and Town Clerk Burch that they will be missed.

## Vice Mayor Robert Shorr (Seat 4)

- The Agritourism committee-gave names to Francine, Elizabeth, Town Attorney will have resolution done.
- Thanked Mr. Peters for his hard work, kicked butt. Great to have a new Director. Great to see a Building Official, Town Manager Ramaglia responded.
- Things are moving forward bumped up reserves.
- Spoke about the mower being out.
- Excited to see paving machine coming to Town.
- Staff have done great work on.

## Mayor Laura Danowski (Seat 2)

- Thanked Town Clerk stating she (Town Clerk) will be missed. She also addressed Mr. Peters, Public Works Director and thanked him for his service.
- Spoke about her time visiting elementary school.
- Stated that she loves what she does. Thanked staff.
- Happy Holiday

# **ADJOURNMENT**

The workshop was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

	FLORIDA
ATTEST:	
	Mayor Laura Danowski
Lakisha Burch, Town Clerk	·
	Vice Mayor Robert Shorr

MONTH ON LONGITUDE CROSSES

Town	of Loxahatchee Groves	
Town	Council Regular Meeting M	<i>Ainutes</i>

December	5,	202	3
Pa	øe.	No.	7

Council Member Marge Herzog	
Council Member Phillis Maniglia	
Council Member Marianne Miles	

#### **ORDINANCE NO. 2023-15**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA, AMENDING SECTION 20-015 "PERMITTED USES" OF ARTICLE 20 "RESIDENTIAL ZONING DISTRICTS" WITHIN PART II "ZONING DISTRICTS" AND ARTICLE 65 "AGRICULTURAL USES" WITHIN PART III "SUPPLEMENTAL REGULATIONS" ALL WITHIN THE UNIFIED LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT, SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Town Council, as the governing body of the Town of Loxahatchee Groves, Florida ("Town"), pursuant to the authority vested in Chapter 166, Florida Statutes, is authorized and empowered to adopt land development regulations within the Town; and

WHEREAS, the legislature has adopted Sections 570.85 and 823.14, F.S., providing certain protections and restrictions as to agricultural and agritourism uses within the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the statutory intent, the Town is limited in its ability to regulate agricultural and agritourism uses within the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town desires to amend and clarify its regulations relating to agricultural uses and adopt regulations relating to agritourism uses within its adopted Unified Land Development Code ("ULDC"); and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has determined that the provisions in this ordinance are a clarification of the application of the Town's regulations to the development of land for these statutorily protected uses and is not more restrictive or burdensome than existing regulations; and

WHEREAS, the notice and hearing requirements for adoption of ordinances contained in the Florida Statutes and the Town's Code of Ordinances have been satisfied; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Loxahatchee Groves has conducted a public hearing for the proposed amendments; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of Town of Loxahatchee Groves finds that the adoption of this ordinance amending the ULDC is consistent with the Town's Comprehensive Plan, and in the best health and welfare interests of the Town, its property owners and residents.

# NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA, THAT:

**Section 1.** The foregoing recitals are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are incorporated herein by this reference.

**Section 2.** The Town of Loxahatchee Groves hereby amends Section 20-015 "Permitted Uses" of Article 20 "Residential Zoning Districts" within Part II, "Zoning Districts" of its Unified Land Development Code to read as follows:

## Section 20-015. Permitted uses.

Plots located in the Agricultural Residential (AR) zoning districts may be used for the following specified uses.

Agricultural Residential (AR)
Permitted
Permitted subject to Section 80-65
Permitted w/Special Exception
Permitted
Permitted w/Special Exception Category A
Agricultural Residential (AR)
Permitted
Permitted
Permitted
Permitted subject to Article 80
Permitted subject to Article 80
Permitted

Underline language is added and strikethrough language is deleted.

Retail Nursery	Permitted w/Special Exception Category B
U-Pick Farms	Permitted w/Special Exception Category B
Private Kennels	Permitted
Private Stables	Permitted
Yard Sales	Permitted subject to Article 80
Veterinary Services	Permitted
Dog Boarding	Permitted
Temporary Events	Permitted w/Special Exception Category C
Agritourism	Permitted subject to Article 65

Section 3. The Town of Loxahatchee Groves hereby amends Article 65 "Agricultural Uses" within Part III "Supplemental Regulations" of its Unified Land Development Code to read as follows:

# Article 65 AGRICULTURAL AND AGRITOURISM USES

## Division I. Agricultural Uses

# Section 65-005. Purpose and intent.

The purpose and intent of this article <u>division</u> is to protect, and provide regulatory relief for, reasonable agricultural activities conducted on farm land in the Town as consistent with the Florida Right to Farm Act (823.14, F.S.).

# Section 65-010. Determination of valid agricultural use.

Any property owner who seeks the regulatory relief provided for an agricultural use as defined herein, must either provide documentation to the Town from the Palm Beach County Property Appraiser's Office demonstrating that the property is currently classified as agriculture pursuant to F.S. § 193.461, as may be amended from time to time, or as an alternative, demonstrate to the Town Council that the use is agricultural, as defined herein. Once documentation is provided, the Town shall maintain an on-going record of such use and assume that each property continues to maintain its agricultural status unless a claim is made otherwise. If a claim is made otherwise, the property owner shall demonstrate the use is agricultural as provided for in this section.

Underline language is added and strikethrough language is deleted.

# Section 65-015. Nonagricultural uses and structures on properties with a bona fide agricultural use.

Nonagricultural uses and structures on properties with a valid agricultural use shall not qualify for modifications or exceptions to the Code based on agricultural status unless specifically stated otherwise.

#### Division II. Agritourism Uses

### Section 65-030. Purpose and intent.

The purpose and intent of this division is to protect, and provide regulation and regulatory relief for, reasonable agritourism activities conducted on bona fide agricultural land in the Town as consistent with section 570.85, F.S.

# Section 65-035. Determination of valid agritourism use.

Any property owner who seeks the regulatory relief provided for an agritourism use as defined herein, must provide documentation to the Town from the Palm Beach County Property Appraiser's Office demonstrating that the property, or portion thereof, is currently classified as agriculture pursuant to section 193.461, F.S., that the purported agritourism use is consistent with the agricultural use on the same property and otherwise meets the requirements of section 570.86, F.S., and that the property owner is in compliance with 570.89, F.S.

# Section 65.040. Substantial offsite impacts of agritourism activities.

- (A) Subject to the limitations of section 823.14. F.S. substantial offsite impacts caused by agritourism uses are prohibited.
- (B) Substantial offsite impacts that may be caused by agritourism activities include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - (1) Traffic and Parking. Ingress to and egress from the property causing substantial interference with traffic on abutting streets or resulting in the generation or creation of traffic inconsistent with the health, safety and welfare of the community. Vehicles entering or exiting the right-of-way to or from the property that utilize turning movements that are hazardous or a nuisance due to the design or function of the ingress and egress connection to the property. Parking on local roadways and Town maintenance easements.
  - (2) Noise. Excessive noise as set forth in section 50-010, ULDC.
  - (3) Lighting. The overspill of light originating from the subject property onto any other plot or street that exceeds one-tenth horizontal foot-candle measured at grade level at the property line and any outdoor lighting, other than motion-detected security lighting, that is not extinguished between 11:00 p.m. and dawn.
  - (4) Odors. Objectionable odors as set forth in section 50-025, ULDC.
  - (5) <u>Vibrations</u>. Vibration noticeable by a person of reasonable sensitivity at the property line, including bass emanating from audio speakers, which is prohibited by section 50-020, ULDC.

- (6) <u>Dust. Unconfined dust that emanates across property lines.</u>
- (C) If an agritourism use is anticipated to or is determined, in the sole discretion of the Town, to cause substantial offsite impacts, the property owner shall prevent, correct or mitigate for such impacts as follows:
  - (1) Traffic and Parking. The property owner shall provide a traffic study and site plan to show sufficient circulation and parking on-site for all agritourism activities on the property to alleviate traffic stacking and parking in the right-of-way. Alternatively, the property owner may provide for off-site parking through agreement for same with another property owner and provision of shuttle service from the parking area to the agritourism activity and shall provide a traffic study and site plan for the alternative parking site as well as the parking agreement. Any proposed off-site parking shall be on property that is properly zoned for and can accommodate the parking for the agritourism activities and designed to alleviate traffic stacking and parking in the right-of-way. The property owner shall provide Maintenance of Traffic for agritourism events, including pre and post event, to prevent or reduce traffic stacking.
  - (2) Noise. The property owner shall provide a holse study and maintain noise levels for all agritourism activities below the thresholds for excessive noise. The property owner may obtain a special event permit up to three (3) times per year for agritourism activities that would allow excessive noise, pursuant to section 80-025, ULDC.
  - (3) Lighting. The property owner shall install timers, cutoff fixtures, shields and baffles and adjust pole height and fixture mounting height, lighting intensity, placement and angle for all lighting creating substantial offsite impacts and provide a photometric plan.
  - (4) Odors. The property owner shall eliminate and prohibit objectionable odors that emanate off-site as part of any agritourism activities.
  - (5) Vibrations. The property owner shall eliminate and prohibit vibrations that emanate off-site as part of any agritourism activities.
  - (6) <u>Dust. The property owner shall eliminate and prohibit the off-site emanation of dust from any agritourism activities, including application of dust suppressants to areas in which the agritourism activities generate dust.</u>
  - (7) The property owner may provide additional means to prevent, correct, or mitigate substantial off-site impacts, including, but not limited to, limiting hours of operation of the agritourism activities.
- (D) The property owner shall submit documentation to the Town to establish compliance with the requirements for prevention, correction or mitigation of substantial off-site impacts. Such documentation shall be provided to the Town no later than thirty (30) days prior to an agritourism activity that it anticipated to cause substantial offsite impacts and within thirty (30) days following the date of any written notice of substantial offsite impacts issued to the property owner by the Town.

- (E) <u>Preventions, correction and mitigation of the substantial off-site impacts of agritourism uses shall be processed and reviewed as a Category B special exception, though such review will be limited to the standards set forth in this section.</u>
- (F) <u>Violations of this section may be enforced by the Town in accordance with Chapter 14 of the Code or any other applicable legal remedy.</u>

### Section 65.045. Construction related to agritourism activities.

Construction of new or additional structures or facilities intended primarily to house, shelter, transport, or otherwise accommodate members of the general public on properties with a valid agritourism use are not subject to regulatory relief and shall not qualify for modifications or exceptions to the Code based on agritourism status unless specifically stated otherwise.

Section 4. Conflict. All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances, Resolutions or parts of Resolutions in conflict herewith be, and the same are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 5. Severability. If any clause, section, or other part or application of this Ordinance shall be held by any court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional or invalid, such unconstitutional or invalid part or application shall be considered as eliminated and so not affecting the validity of the remaining portions or applications remaining in full force and effect.

Section 6. Codification. It is the intention of the Town Council of the Town of Loxahatchee Groves that the provisions of this Ordinance shall become and be made a part of the Unified Land Development Code of the Town of Loxahatchee Groves, Florida, that the Sections of this ordinance may be renumbered, re-lettered, and the word "Ordinance" may be changed to "Section", "Article" or such other word or phrase in order to accomplish such intention.

Section 7. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its passage and adoption.

Councilmember offered the foregoing ordinance. Councilmember				
seconded the motion, and upon being put to a vote, the v	ote was as	follow	s:	
	Aye	Nay	Absent	
LAURA DANOWSKI, MAYOR				
ROBERT SHORR, VICE MAYOR				
MARGARET HERZOG, COUNCILMEMBER				
PHILLIS MANIGLIA, COUNCILMEMBER				
MARIANNE MILES, COUNCILMEMBER	П	П	П	

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE TO LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA, O, 20	
Councilmember off seconded the motion, and upon being put to a vote	Fered the foregoing ordinance. Councilmember e, the vote was as follows:
	Aye Nay Absent
LAURA DANOWSKI, MAYOR	
ROBERT SHORR, VICE MAYOR	0 0
MARGARET HERZOG, COUNCILMEMBER	
PHILLIS MANIGLIA, COUNCILMEMBER	0 0 0
MARIANNE MILES, COUNCILMEMBER	
PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, ON SECOND I DAY OF TOWN OF	TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN READING AND PUBLIC HEARING, THIS  LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA
ATTEST:	Mayor Laura Danowski
Lakisha Q. Burch, Town Clerk	Vice Mayor Robert Shorr
APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:	Councilmember Margaret Herzog
Office of the Town Attorney	Councilmember Phillis Maniglia
	Councilmember Marianne Miles